

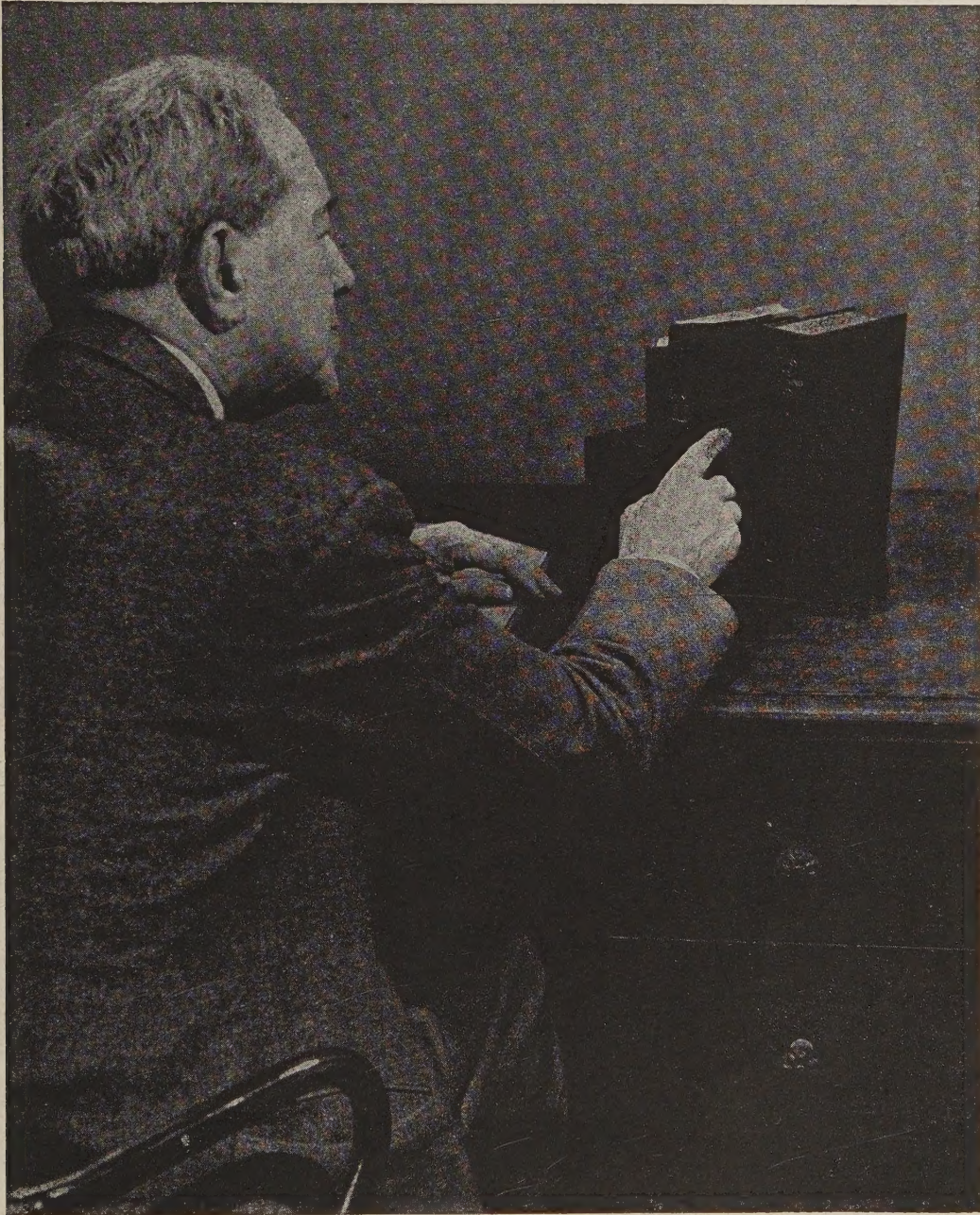
# BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

OCTOBER 1944



VOL. 89

No. 8



## NATIONWIDE BIBLE READING FROM THANKSGIVING TO CHRISTMAS

*Let America—on the Fighting Fronts, in its Homes, its Offices, on its  
Farms and in its Factories take up the Bible and Read!*

— TURN TO PAGES 115, 119, 120, 121, 122 —

TRANSLATION • PUBLICATION • DISTRIBUTION • ENCOURAGEMENT OF USE



# Clippings from Correspondence

**Y**OUR shipment of 300 New Testaments arrived this week," wrote an Air Base Chaplain. "Many thanks, the boys were delighted to receive a New Testament with a binding that appears not too attractive to the ants!"

## *From a Hawaiian-Japanese Soldier in Italy*

To a member of the Bible Society staff he wrote: "You are doing the type of work that we all depend on from day to day, from one minute to another—the blessings and courage from God."

## *Light from Within*

"I wish you could be present at times when I can comply with some man's request for a Testament. When I can say "Yes" to his request for a Testament, his face always lights up with a smile that is gratitude in itself. Your work is truly appreciated and it is a blessed work. Thanks again."—*Chaplain H. G. Belsheim*

## *The Bible Read Overseas*

"I know from first-hand information that men overseas read their Bibles regularly, both individually and in study groups. The personnel of my particular unit, one of the outstanding bombardment divisions overseas, had an extremely high percentage of men regularly reading their Bibles, and many of the Bibles were brought from this country."—*Chaplain Waldo E. Dunn*

## *Seed for Harvest*

"Though most of our men have received New Testaments back in the states, there are those who have misplaced, mistreated, or even some who have worn out their copy. Then in our hospital and guard-house visits we do find the men without them! What a joy to be able to give them the Word of Life. Thanks again for your interest and help. Trust that the Seed you are providing will produce a real harvest."—*Chaplain Donald Mackay*

## *The Mother Tongue*

"This is to acknowledge the recent shipment of three (3) Czechoslovakian Gospels and six (6) Spanish Bibles. One man had written to some of his friends in Mexico for a Spanish Bible and could not get one. When I handed him one that you sent he immediately opened it and began to read. A big smile came on his face and he said, "Chaplain, you

don't know how much I appreciate this Bible; I will never forget you for getting it for me." If people could see the pleased look on his face they would be well repaid for their gifts to the American Bible Society."—*Harold H. Maxwell*

## *Across the Border*

The British and Foreign Bible Society in Canada and Newfoundland has provided 641,440 New Testaments for members of the Canadian Armed Forces since 1939.

## *Foreign Languages in the American Army*

It will amaze our readers to learn that in addition to the millions of Testaments in English which have been supplied to men in the armed forces there have been some twenty other languages in which the Scriptures have been supplied, as follows:

Cherokee	Gaelic
Armenian	Czech
Spanish	Slavonic
Italian	Chinese (Cantonese)
French	Chinese (Kuoyü)
Modern Greek	Choctaw
Hebrew	Norwegian
Lithuanian	Polish
Portuguese	Serbian
Yiddish	Navaho

## *The New Testament among the Invasion Wounded*

"You may be interested in hearing about one case where the New Testaments are used and appreciated. I am in a large hospital in England. A few days after the invasion the wounded arrived by the hundreds. Learning that most of them had left everything on the beachhead, I went to every Protestant man and asked him if he had lost his New Testament, and if he needed or wanted one. Most of them did, and expressed sincere appreciation for receiving them. Some took out an old worn or torn New Testament and said that that was all they were able to save. The first day I gave out over two hundred New Testaments. Afterwards one could see them reading the books. A British Red Cross worker told me that she had never seen anything like it in her experience. These men who were spared have been doing some deep thinking."—*Chaplain Arthur Johnson*



# BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

*A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution of the Holy Scriptures*

Volume 89

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Number 8

## Our Bible, Our America—and You

UNDOUBTEDLY there is not a reader of the RECORD who does not count the Bible as his most precious possession. Likewise there will be none of American citizenship who does not with deep emotion love our country—America—as *his* country. For it we desire not merely security from outside enemies for which even now our sons and daughters and brothers are making sacrifices; we desire something more.

We wish for America that it shall be a great nation—and when we say “great” we do not mean in population, in wealth, in physical might, and economic strength. We mean “great” in the sense in which we use that word when we speak of a “great” man—a man who holds himself above all that is ignoble or base, whose greatness is greatness of character and of service.

In these months and years immediately before us will be many crises which will test America’s greatness. They may come in the relations between capital and labor, in racial issues, in our dealings with other nations. Every such crisis that is decided aright makes for character and helps to decide the next one right. Every one that goes wrong turns the nation backward and downward.

But for America though the decision in the crisis will have to be a real one, forces that lie in the scales will be made up out of the wrong or right decisions of the millions of individual characters that go to make up the nation. Leaders have their powerful place, but primarily as channels or focal points of tendencies and desires that already exist among multitudes of individuals. It is *our* characters, the kind of man or woman each of us is, that determines our national character. A great America depends on *our* greatness in character—“firmness for the right as God gives us to see the right,” understanding of and respect for the personality of others, loyalty to the best interests of all, generous and sympathetic fellowship.

To us who read the *Record*, character like this has one mainspring—the influence upon us of Jesus Christ, known through the Bible and our fellowship with the living Lord. No force in the world’s history comes near Him in His influence for high and true character. No influence goes further in binding together men and women of every race and tongue and condition. And all who know Him and all who would know Him must go to the Bible as the one authoritative source of knowledge of Him.

Is it not then our conviction that if our America is to be great, is to meet these days of crisis rightly, millions more of Americans must come into vital touch with the Bible and the reading of it?

For these days ahead one of the most essential matters is that Americans gain a sense of unity across all barriers. Conflicting group interests are going to be very strong—veterans, farmers, labor unions, industrialists, political parties, job holders and the jobless, and many others. The strains and pressures can become destructive if all Americans do not possess a deep sense of fellowship with each other and a growing sense of unity and greatness of character.

Out of the fires of our war experience has come a powerful opportunity for developing greater unity and finer character—the Nationwide Bible Reading from Thanksgiving to Christmas. In it men and women in service all over the world will join with hosts of civilians—the families at home and many others—in daily reading of great passages from the Bible. The description of this wonderful opportunity is set forth on pages 119 to 122. Every reader will wish to take part.

The most prodigious part of the program is the effort to reach every person in the country and lead him to join in the reading. You who are readers of the *Record* number over 125,000. You can be a powerful factor in this great occasion.

Your Bible, which you cherish, your America, which you love—and you, to bring them together.



# In the European War Zone

ONLY once since January have we been able to report on the work centering in Geneva for prisoners of war and civilians in occupied countries in Europe. The intensification of the war has restricted mail communication extremely and radio messages are slower and less informative. Most of the news here left Geneva last March but it is of importance in revealing a constant activity.

## Among Prisoners of War

The completed figures for 1943 show a total of 9,147 Bibles, 15,218 Testaments, and 2,343 Gospels and other Portions sent directly from our Geneva office to prisoner-of-war camps. Some indication of the extent of the work is revealed by the report that 104 "POW" camps of Frenchmen, 11 camps of Poles, 103 camps of Britishers and Americans, 58 of Serbians and 19 of Dutchmen have been supplied. These have been in Germany and the occupied territories, including Holland and Northern France.

A further indication of the details involved is shown by the language list, as follows:

	<i>Bibles</i>	<i>Testaments</i>	<i>Portions</i>
English	5,951	9,546	909
French	2,498	3,860	551
Russian	18	1,169	140
Afrikaans	285	—	—
German	148	59	—
Malagasy	3	99	500
Hebrew	72	6	—
Dutch	47	59	—
Polish	42	125	1
Italian	32	55	50
Greek	8	203	—
Serbian	18	63	160
Turkish	9	8	30
Spanish	5	8	—
Hungarian	2	3	—
Others	9	15	2

The last group comprises one or two copies each in

*German Prisoners on an American Farm*



Arabic, Armenian, Bambara, Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Esperanto, Latin, Norwegian, Swedish, Ukrainian, Welsh and Yiddish.

Great praise is due to M. Olivier Béguin, the Society's Secretary in Geneva, and his staff of helpers for this fine achievement and the tact, skill, and hard labor it required. And this is only a part of their labor, for they render many other religious ministries to prisoners of war in behalf of the Ecumenical Commission for Chaplaincy Aid to Prisoners of War.

Of the experience in 1944, M. Béguin writes:

"From Christmas on we intensified our consignments of separate Gospels, and sent about 8,000 copies of St. John's, and printed and sent 6,500 copies of St. Mark's. We shall continue along the same line. The experience of the first months of 1944 shows that there has been a noticeable increase in demands for Scriptures due to our various pamphlets, and especially to the evangelistic tracts. The booklet 'Preparing for Easter,' printed in four languages (English, French, German, Dutch) also led many prisoners to a better understanding of Bible reading, and made many others open their New Testament for the first time since long ago.

"Coming back to 1943 figures, the number of camps supplied decreased slightly because of the termination of all camps in Italy. New camps were opened in Germany for prisoners coming from Italy. But in most cases people were just put in camps existing already.

"We tried and succeeded in getting into touch with camps in Occupied France where they keep prisoners from the French Colonies, and we were able to send more Malagasy Gospels and New Testaments. But we are still very short of such supplies. There are tens of thousands of Malagasy and other African prisoners in France."

## Civilian Workers

This large group of persons consists of civilians dragooned by Germany from the occupied countries for labor in Germany. M. Béguin writes:

"The work among civilian workers began with the end of May 1943, not under the responsibility of the Ecumenical Commission, but of the Société Centrale Évangélique, which had already started to get in contact with the Civilian Workers from



their office in Paris. As there were great difficulties in supplying Scriptures and books from France, they opened an office in Geneva, in our quarters. We supply them with books and help them in any way we can. Although one never knows what may happen next, and one may be stopped at any moment, one can say that up to now we have succeeded in helping a good number of French Protestants. Most of the time the material conditions of Civilian Workers are equal to if not worse than those of the Prisoners of War. As to their so-called freedom, it means often more wrong than good, as the civilians feel more lonely than the Prisoners of War. Some join in German churches on Sundays in order to feel themselves a part of the Christian community. Many write regularly—or wrote, because new regulations have been enforced as to their correspondence, cutting the number of letters to two per month.

"Many Civilian Workers have asked for Bibles. Some former prisoners 'transformed' into Civilian Workers wrote to our Commission to tell of their new situation and ask for further help and parcels. We transferred the cases to the Société Centrale Évangélique. Group leaders do good work in large towns, but feel very much handicapped by the difficulty of communications and of having people gathered from large areas. As there are no pastors and very few divinity students among the Workers, one has to provide the leaders with appropriate literature in order to help them in conducting services. Once more laymen are taking the lead in the church!

"Consignments to Dutch Civilian Workers started by the sending of our Easter pamphlets ('Preparing for Easter' and 'One Sole Lord'). Dutch Civilian Workers have good opportunities of spreading the Gospel. They asked for Russian New Testaments and Gospels. This is a new opening of rather large possibilities, but of course the work can be done only from individual to individual."

The shipments to Civilian Workers from May to December 1943 were 185 Bibles, 723 Testaments, and 1,198 Gospels, principally in French, with a few in six other languages.

### ***Evangelists in Poland and Germany***

An extremely interesting item in M. Béguin's report is his reference to Scriptures sent to "evangelists" in Poland and Germany, whom we take to be Christian workers who are preaching the Gospel in prison camps to which they may have access. Included in the figures are 200 French Bibles, 200 English Bibles and Testaments, and 2,660 Polish Gospels. The most significant item, however, is 3,130 Russian Testaments and 20,010 Russian Gospels!

### ***Bible Depots in Europe***

M. Béguin reports he has heard very little from the depots in Vienna, Prague, Budapest, and Bucha-



*Photo from Acme*

*Americans, Prisoners in Germany*

rest, but contact with Holland, Belgium, and France has been maintained. Boxes of Scriptures much in demand have been sent, however. To the Christian work in Alsace 2,000 German Bibles purchased in Switzerland were sent.

### ***Publications in Switzerland***

The Italian Bibles (6,800) and Testaments (12,000) have been completed but the Allied invasion of Italy resulted in the closing of traffic between Rome and Geneva and the books could not be sent.

The Polish, Serbian and Czech Bibles and Testaments were completed during the spring of 1944 and have begun to fill a deeply felt want. Some Armenian Testaments have also been printed from plates hastily shipped from Vienna to Geneva at the beginning of the war. Shipments of these were beginning to arrive in Beirut in July.

### ***Large Demand for German Bibles***

In the spring the New York office of the Society learned that the shortage of Bibles in Germany was so great that one had to go through the bookstores of several towns in order to gather up even a few. Still



later it was reported that stenciled texts were being used as larger parts of the Bible could not be had. The Society is planning to meet some of the great need for Bibles in Germany at the war's end. The usual annual printing in Germany has been upward of 300,000 copies, of which few or none have been printed for two or three years. M. Béguin reports from Geneva a demand from countries on all sides of Switzerland for German Scriptures. The Society has therefore approved the printing in Switzerland of 20,000 German Bibles this year.

### ***Shipments to Europe from America***

In response to a call from Geneva for Bibles and Testaments for American and British prisoners of war, the Society delivered to the War Work of the Y.M.C.A., 5,000 Bibles and 15,000 Testaments for shipment in July. Further shipments are in prospect.

For German prisoners of war captured in the invasion of Normandy, the Theatre Chaplain of the U. S. Forces in Great Britain sent a hurry call in July for Scriptures and reinforced it with directions to the Service of Supply to transport them. The Society supplied for this purpose 500 Bibles, 5,000 Testaments and 15,000 Gospels in German.

A similar call from North Africa for Scriptures for French soldiers was met by sending 750 Bibles, 900 Testaments and 3,000 Gospels.

Several chaplains in the Italian theatre of action have been requesting Italian Scriptures for use in their contacts with the civilian population and they have been supplied. There has been word of the welfare of Sr. Guido Miegge, the British Society's secretary in Italy. The Societies are endeavoring to send in Scriptures in larger quantities at the earliest possible moment.

### ***A Message from France***

Pastor Benjamin Bertrand, indefatigable executive of the Bible Society of France, has sent a message reaching the Bible House August 16 by way of Sweden! It read "Request 5000 Bibles Synodale Version." The headquarters of the Bible Society of France are in Paris.

## **"We Fight With Light"**

**W**E could use a dozen or eighteen whole Bibles. We have an impressive little service in which we give a Bible to the winner of a contest, and would like to put this service on and give away a copy of the Scriptures at every one of our lonely outpost positions. At this special service we use the text: Psalm 119: 105, 'Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.' The subject: 'The Chaplain and 800,000,000 Candlepower.' That's the strength of one of our anti-aircraft searchlights. One of our Searchlight Battalions adopted a slogan: 'We Fight

with Light,' not an inappropriate slogan for the Christian Church. Three of these AA searchlights, if somehow magically divided and distributed, could furnish a 'lamp to the feet' of every living human being on earth with three or four hundred million candles to spare."—*Chaplain Clifton Bell*

## **A Courageous Achievement**

**A** SUPERB achievement in the face of difficulties of a most oppressive nature is indicated by this dispatch from a Geneva, Switzerland, News Service: "The largest sale of Scriptures in one hundred and thirty years has been reported by the Netherlands Bible Society. 75,000 Bibles, 90,000 Testaments and 40,000 Portions of the new translation of the Psalms were sold out immediately after they appeared on the book shelves."

Many of these books have gone to Dutch forced labor units in Germany and northern France. The new translation of the Psalms is a continuation of the revision of the entire Bible being made by the Netherlands Bible Society. The New Testament appeared before the war and became very popular.

## **From Saipan!**

**C**HAPLAIN Frank L. Titus, writing from the Marianas on July 19, gives this striking bit of information: "We have just finished the battle on Saipan. We found very little evidence of Christian teaching except among the original natives who were converted to Catholicism in the 17th century. The exception to this was evidenced in the finding in a cave of a copy of the Holy Bible published by the Tokyo branch of the American Bible Society."

Similarly copies of the New Testament were found in the Aleutians.

## **At an Amphibious Training Base**

**I**N acknowledging receipt of a pulpit Bible for an Advanced Amphibious Training Base Chaplain Wallace N. Jamison wrote: "The lovely pulpit Bible you sent us was received with a great deal of appreciation. It is truly a valuable addition to our chapel and our worship services. The men have made a number of comments about it already. So on their behalf as well as for the whole chaplain corps of this base I want to express my sincere thanks. Today I received the two invoices concerning the shipment of Testaments and ships' Bibles, indicating that they are on the way overseas. For these also we are very grateful. We have a large number of ships that are waiting for the Bibles, and though we have a few Testaments left, we will soon be using the ones you are sending us."



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## Sponsoring and Executive Organization — The American Bible Society



# NATIONWIDE

## *Thanksgiving*

### The Bible in American Life—Now

**H**UNDREDS of thousands of men and women in the armed forces and multitudes at home are finding the Bible an inspiration and guide now as never before. By a more extended and simultaneous reading now by those in service and by those of us at home a spiritual bond will be created that will be full of meaning for millions of families and that will make a priceless contribution to their hope and faith.

Above all the measures of war-time and post-war planning—in industry, business, education, religion—the supreme need on the part of us all is for clearer moral insight, more unyielding devotion to truth, a more steadfast and farseeing spirit of brotherhood, a new determination to be more worthy of the great sacrifices that are being made in our behalf. No one source of inspiration is better able to provide for our need than the Bible.

Through long generations and among countless people of many nations the Bible has done this for those who gave heed to its guidance. It has influenced the deep springs of our national life. We may well expect that if fresh attention be given to it now by the American people, there will flow into our national life purifying and tonic streams of moral purpose and faith that will count tremendously in the remaining months of the war and the perilous years that follow.

The time is ripe to give the Bible a new share in our American life. Millions of men in the forces carry and read their Testaments. The prayers of the nation on D-Day reveal the depth of its sense of need. The lad reading his Testament in an LCT as it approached the French coast is symbolical. Let every American share in making the Nationwide Reading of the Bible between Thanksgiving and Christmas an occasion of great value to the people and the nation.



# BIBLE READING

## *to Christmas*

### The Selections to be Read

Thanksgiving, November 23	Psalm 103
Friday	John 14
Saturday	Psalm 23
Sunday, November 26	Psalm 1
Monday	Matthew 5
Tuesday	Romans 8
Wednesday	I Corinthians 13
Thursday	Psalm 91
Friday	Matthew 6
Saturday	John 3
Sunday, December 3	Isaiah 40
Monday	Psalm 46
Tuesday	Romans 12
Wednesday	Hebrews 11
Thursday	Matthew 7
Friday	John 15
Saturday	Psalm 27
Sunday, December 10	Isaiah 55
Monday	Psalm 121
Tuesday	Philippians 4
Wednesday	Revelation 21
Thursday	Luke 15
Friday	Ephesians 6
Saturday	John 17
Sunday, December 17	Isaiah 53
Monday	I Corinthians 15
Tuesday	John 10
Wednesday	Psalm 51
Thursday	Psalm 37
Friday	John 1
Saturday	Revelation 22
Sunday, December 24	Psalm 90
Christmas, December 25	Luke 2



# How You Can Help Spread the Nationwide Bible Reading

**O**F COURSE, the first thing to do is to plan to read the passages on the appointed days yourself alone, or in a family group with several participating in the reading. If you have relatives or friends in service write them about it and ask them to read with you. Suggest they tell their friends about it.

A second and very natural way of spreading the news of the Reading is just to mention it to your neighbors and friends—at the market or in the grocery store, in the office. Mention it to callers. Have some spare copies of the reading list at hand or if your local newspaper is printing the reference direct your friends to that.

Appeal to the motives which will be likely to inspire them to read. Fellowship with men and women in service who are reading, sharing in a nationwide effort to strengthen the life of our country, helping to guide the children and young people of the family in the right way, finding sources of comfort in bereavement, getting inspiration for the daily grind—these are some of the reasons why people will want to read these passages.

The 125,000 readers of the RECORD can do a great deal by just this simple process of talking about it. They can also multiply the effect in one or more of the following ways.

Present the plan in the local society or club to which you belong—no matter what it is—businessmen's luncheon club, service club, literary or book reviewing society, women's missionary society or other church group, the adult Bible classes, scout groups, the bank committee. Anywhere you meet with a group, present it. That is, just ask if people have heard of it and then discuss it a bit—what its value is, and then "Is there something we can do to help this along?" You'll be surprised to find how much support you will get and from what unexpected quarters. There are millions of people in this country who may have no connection with the church who have in a corner of their heart a warm spot for the Bible or for some other person who is devoted to the Bible.

Then check up first with the minister of your church to see if the ministers of the community are planning together to stimulate the reading in the community. If only all the "church people" read, it will be a great gain, but what we should be eager for is that millions outside the churches should join in too. This requires the stimulation given by posters in public places, short interesting articles and inter-

views in the local press, editorials, radio announcements, reminders in local advertising, house-to-house canvasses stating the plan and leaving the reading list bookmark. These require planning and organization.

Perhaps the ministers will wish to form a sponsoring committee of laymen well known in the community, to form an executive group to get the program known to everybody. Such a committee should be formed early and secure suggestions and materials from the Society's offices. Local committees will however, develop many good plans of their own that will be very helpful.

While the Society will do everything possible to supply bookmark reading lists, it may not be possible to supply enough on time. The local committee or the churches or some group of merchants may be able and willing to pay for a local printing. It may be that your local industries would include these in payroll envelopes, or with the gas, water or electric bills. One of the Society's bookmarks or the matter on the preceding page may be used for copy for this purpose.

Statements at frequent intervals and articles should begin to appear in the press by November 8. The whole reading list should be published daily beginning November 16. Then beginning November 22 print the readings each day for the next four to seven days. Clip-sheet material can be secured from the Bible Society giving arrangements of the reading list and selections from the passages.

Your pastor should receive from the Bible Society a packet of materials for this program about the same time you receive this magazine. If he does not have it by October 10th ask him to write for one and while he is waiting lend him this issue of the RECORD so he can begin to make plans.

So very great is the opportunity before us that we venture to suggest to more of our readers their intercession at the Throne of Grace for this great venture.

Let us pray that the Nationwide Bible Reading may, with the help of the Spirit of God, have a far-reaching and multiplied influence, bringing multitudes back to regular Bible reading and multitudes more to take it up. Let us pray that like a great tide it will not only fill the bays and harbors of the churches and the homes of the country but press far back into the lesser and more numerous streams of our national life. Let us pray that those who read may have their hearts open to the gracious Spirit of God and that thereby they may be inspired to worthier living and more faithful service.



# A Moslem Helps

by F. Lyman MacCallum

**A** MOSLEM at our weekly meeting! The staff scarcely knew how to take it, and sat in their accustomed places round the table with unaccustomed reserve. Mustafa Bey was introduced very briefly as a friend who came with a message which no one interested in selling the Bible to Moslems could easily neglect. A Bible passage was read and prayer offered, after which the guest was asked to speak.

Mustafa Bey is a retired army officer, one who has in his day known heavy responsibility. Now his great concern is to awaken men to the reality of God's love for them. His message is for Christians and Jews no less than for his fellow Moslems. Each of these religions is, in his belief, a true path along which the believer will discover the love of God.

"Throughout most of my life," he began, "as a good Moslem, I have shunned this holy book. As a young man I inherited a copy from my father, but I promptly made a present of it to the most dissolute of my acquaintances. I selected him in the hope that it might do him good, since he was past being harmed. But the day came when God willed that I should read the Bible, and since then I have sat up with it many a night and have filled more than forty notebooks with extracts and comments. I have found it a book which says fresh things each time you come to it; it is not one that you read once and are through with. A glass of water satisfies but does not end thirst. So is this book a source of refreshment for the thirsty spirit.

"Brothers, this book is light, a light which does not shine unless the book is opened. Most Moslems do not know of this light, either because they have never opened the book or else have tried but have not understood. Be careful then when you approach my people not to make the easy hard, and the sweet bitter. Try not to teach others your mistakes. If your customer is afraid of the word Injeel (Gospel) spare his ears and his susceptibilities. Quote him words he will like, and only after he has enjoyed them let him discover that they are the Injeel. If you begin by telling him he must pluck out his eye and cut off his hand, he will run so fast that you will never get another chance at him. But if you come to him with the great good news that God loves him, God is sorrowing over him and waiting for him to come back, he can scarcely help but listen.

"And if he is a good Moslem you can quote him some of the assurances of the Koran with regard to the Bible. It might be well to have some of these fixed in your memories, such as—

"'And of old gave we Moses the guidance, and we made the Children of Israel heritors of the Book,—a guidance and warning to men endued with understanding (40: 54).'

"'And in the footsteps of the prophets caused we Jesus the Son of Mary to follow, confirming the Law which was before him: and we gave him the Evangel, with its guidance and light, confirmatory of the preceding Law; a guidance and a warning to those who fear God (5: 50).'

"In offering your book to Moslems you will often be met with the objection that it has been so altered by later hands that these words of the Koran are no longer valid. I have recently been beset by some of my theological friends because I dare to maintain that the Old Testament did not disappear at the time of the Babylonian Exile, but has been preserved intact through the days of Jesus and Mohammed down to our own day. My firm belief that this is indeed the ancient text is partly based on the many bitter rebukes which it contains for the sins and shortcomings of the Jews. Had the book been tampered with, such passages would have been the first to go.

"The Old Testament is a Law, a Constitution; the New shows us how that Constitution can be lived out. Without the latter the former remains inactive. True wisdom consists in giving truth to men in terms which they can understand. When offering your book you are hunting for individuals who are willing to accept truth. We are apt to think when a priest trails his skirts past us, 'There goes one who is like Jesus.' Are we equally quick to recognize Jesus in the man who is dully drinking in the dramshop or shouldering a heavy burden? Not till we can see Jesus there among men who are sunk to their necks in the mire are we fit to call ourselves his servants.

"When an uninstructed Moslem opens this big book for the first time, Satan loves to intervene and

*Mr. Fouad Accad in the Beirut Salesroom*





lead his eye to a passage of which he can make nothing. The reader hands you back the book and goes away with a prejudice against it. Can't you beat the Devil at his own game by inserting a few paper markers at passages which you would like prospective purchasers to see? The book is thus more apt to come open where you want than where the Devil wants.

"As I close, I would like to remind you of the words of the Prophet to the effect that God made men Christians and Moslem so that they might compete in good works. How often in the past have our

competitions taken a much less helpful form. You as book-sellers to Moslems have indeed a high calling before you, and I congratulate you on it."

So Mustafa Bey brought his discourse to an end, but the chill in which he began had given place to a glow of sincere friendship. One after another, the colporteurs told of their happier experiences in meeting Moslems. For long after the customary hour we sat talking together, and when at last the colporteurs picked up their bags and went out, the busy streets seemed to meet them with new friendliness and understanding.

## Cuban Soldiers Receive 16,000 New Testaments

**I**N PURSUANCE of the "Good Neighbor policy," the Bible Society last year determined that not only should the men of our own armed forces receive copies of the New Testament but that it should be made available also in Spanish to the personnel of our Latin-American allies. An edition of 250,000 New Testaments was printed, most of which are being used for this purpose. Reports are now coming in. Here is a summary from Secretary J. Gonzalez Molina in Cuba.

Through local committees contact was made with the army authorities in each of the military districts. The hearty reception given to the program has resulted in the distribution of 16,469 New Testaments as follows: Pinar del Rio, 1,353; Havana, 8,645; Matanzas, 1,250; Las Villas, 444; Camaguey, 1,680; Oriente, 2,781; miscellaneous, 316. The troops were met in more than seventy locations.

In Havana itself writes Señor Molina: "We were received by the high officials met in council, and they all manifested their approbation. The presiding officer, Commander Quirino Uria Lopez, S.D., stated that "The Cuban Army would receive with pleasure the Book of God—the only book capable of raising the moral level of mankind, and especially at this time, when men were in arms to defend the sacred rights of Liberty." All the officers received their New Testaments with rejoicing, and

they detailed two officers—Lieutenants—to accompany us for four days, visiting during the morning hours all the battalions of this magnificent Military City. The companies in formation in their respective pavilions listened respectfully to our words, and afterwards, each *who wished* received his New Testament in the name of the American Bible Society. From reports received later, we know the Book is much read and commented upon. Thank God!"

The Colonel commanding in San Diego de Cuba wrote: "The Army Staff has accepted without reserve the high and generous offer to supply to our men of the Armed Forces the spiritual bread which will comfort them and bring them nearer and nearer to God in moments of greatest anxiety and danger."

Similar statements were received from others. The Chief of the Army, Major-General Lopez Migoya, has reported with gratitude many requests that the camps and barracks be visited.

Many thanks are due to the Christian leaders and special committees throughout Cuba that so vigorously undertook the distribution. Along with it has gone a campaign for the sale of a similar book among the civilians in which approximately fifteen thousand copies have been sold. Ten thousand additional copies for this united military and civilian campaign have been requested by the Havana office. Reports from other areas will be made later.

### Correspondence about the Nationwide Bible Reading

It will greatly help the Society in prompt attention to correspondence if letters concerning the Nationwide Bible Reading are addressed to:

Dept. B. R.  
American Bible Society  
Park Avenue & 57th Street  
New York 22, N. Y.



## Scriptures and a Revolution!

by DELBERT GRANT

**A**N ARMY contingent halted in El Salvador, Central America on the Pan-American Highway in the heat of the tropical noonday sun. The company of Salvadorian soldiers with its captain paused ten minutes on a bridge to receive copies of the American Bible Society's Scriptures printed in the Spanish language. When presenting the Testaments to these Latin American troops we told them these were but a token of the Testaments which would be flowing soon by the thousands into Central and South America.

Everything was peaceful that hot, humid day in San Salvador, the capital city, and soon all the inhabitants would be taking the customary "siesta." Yet a tenseness seemed strangely in the air. Guards had been increased at every road leading out of the city and everyone who passed was questioned. Along the railroads bare-footed infantrymen, clad in blue denim, watched every tunnel and trestle. Several soldiers kept vigil where ammunition was stored in the hills. These *Guardía Nacional* members along the railroads or highways or guiding the traffic received enthusiastically copies of God's eternal Word.

The directing general of the army stated when the Scriptures were presented to him, "I am pleased that these are going to our men. It is just what the boys need." As the general spoke, five Salvadorian planes, the entire airforce of that tiny Republic, circled overhead in an azure blue sky. Only a few days later



*Soldiers of El Salvador*

those same planes dropped bombs almost on the spot where the captain and his company of men had paused to receive khaki-colored Testaments.

San Salvador was soon a besieged and bombed city, the scene of a bloody revolution, but before the conflict the Word of God had reached the soldiers involved. Surely the Word, quick and powerful, will have more far-reaching effect than a passing revolution which can only bring changes of the moment; but the Scriptures, eternal salvation.

## Postage Stamps: What and Why?

**T**HE article "Stamps Into Scriptures," published in the December 1943 *RECORD*, has brought over 300 packages, ranging from a few stamps tucked in letters to a book of 8,000 foreign issues. Friends from almost every state and several countries have been the donors.

While those somewhat curious beings who collect stamps are very numerous, there are others to whom the subject is a deep, occult mystery. A little information is, therefore, delicately offered, partly to facilitate the sorting and partly to prevent our well-wishers from spending more to mail a package than the enclosed stamps are worth.

Prices of stamps are based on supply and demand. The ordinary, present-day U.S. stamps, 1¢, 2¢, 3¢, are too numerous to have value. They sell for a few dimes a pound and it takes from 1,000 to 4,000 to weigh a pound. Kindly do not send them.

Stamps are valueless if the perforations are cut or even slightly clipped. Stamps should be cut off, leaving a quarter-inch margin. Tearing stamps strips the backs and makes them thin and useless.

The following are in demand:

**Stamps**—1. Any U.S. commemoratives, i.e. historical, famous Americans, flags, and new steamship, telegraph, etc. Some friends buy the special stamps, use them on family mail and send on the surplus used ones.

2. High denominations of the U.S.—presidents.

3. Old issues of any country.

4. Unused stamps are worth face value or more.

5. Foreign stamps. When attached to a censored envelope, send the whole envelope. This is called a "cover."

**Covers**—6. Whole foreign envelopes with censor marking and foreign stamps uninjured are desired by collectors. They request that the envelopes be sliced off at one side, not torn apart.

7. Envelopes from service men should be sent whole, but no other U.S. envelopes unless dated earlier than 1900.

8. Stamp collections or books about stamps.

Consignments of stamps may be sent as merchandise, 4th class, marked "used postage stamps, may be opened for inspection."

Thanks to the many who, often at real sacrifice, have shared their stock of stamps and covers. Theirs is the assurance that the funds received provide Testaments for men and women in the Armed Services and for war prisoners in 38 different languages.

To the notes above prepared by Mrs. Carleton Lacy the Editors wish to add the Society's gratitude to her for her skillful volunteer administration of the Society's "stamp desk."





# Editorial Comment



## BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

*A Journal Dedicated to the Wider  
Distribution of the Holy Scriptures*

Editors: THE SECRETARIES

Address correspondence to Francis  
Carr Stifler, Secretary, Bible  
House, Park Avenue and  
57th Street, New York



Vol. 89 OCTOBER 1944 No. 8

AMONG the many, many friends of the Bible Society we are sure there is a large number who pray often for the Society and its work. Unknown to each other they form a fellowship of the spirit of prayer. Without such a fellowship a Bible Society would soon cease to exist, for its very heart is that concern for others which is the foundation of intercessory prayer. Today the challenges and responsibilities resting on the Society are so great that only in the closest dependence on God and His guidance and strength can they be met. To this end we invite more of our friends to join with us in prayer for the Society.

Elsewhere in this issue we have suggested prayer for the great Nationwide Bible Reading that is projected from Thanksgiving to Christmas. We venture here to suggest some other matters of great importance.

By the time this issue reaches the members of the Society, active work will have begun on the campaign for over \$1,000,000 for emergency and postwar needs for the Scriptures described in the July issue. Additional staff members must be enlisted, volunteers enrolled, plans wisely laid and skilfully executed.

Let us pray that to all who have to do with this campaign there may be given a sense of their great mission under God and of the part it has in His purpose, that they may have wisdom, courage and persuasiveness, and that their strength may be equal to

the demands upon it. Let us pray that the cause for which the Society stands may win tens of thousands of new friends and supporters. Let us pray that wisdom and judgment may be given to the Board of Managers in the directing of the campaign and in the expenditure of the receipts that hundreds of thousands of eager hands may receive the Scriptures so long denied them; and soldiers and sailors, civilians in liberated areas, children to whom the Bible will be a new book, people of many races and tongues may give thanks for the Book that comes to them bringing the word of new life.

A small group of persons from whom no word has come for many months are very precious to the Society—the members of the staff who are interned or who dwell in countries in the path of war: Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Fonger and their son Burton are interned in the Philippines; Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Hudspeth and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hobbs are interned in Shanghai; Dr. Cohen Stuart in Java; Mr. and Mrs. George Popoff and Mr. George Kladis in southeastern Europe. We are also concerned for staff members of other Bible Societies who are in various forms of peril: Dr. H. C. Rutgers and his colleagues of the Netherlands Society; President de Félice and Pastor Benjamin Bertrand of the French Society; Dr. Korn of the Norwegian Society; and Secretaries Wilkinson, Temple, Patten, Platt and Organe and their colleagues in the British Society in London some of whom live in the paths the robot bombs have been following. Let us pray that they and their families may all be sustained in health and in strength and granted recovery of freedom from the privations and horrors of war.

There is a saying at the Bible House that the real work of the Society is done where the man without the Bible is met by the man with the Bible. Here indeed is the crucial moment fraught with great possibilities. To bring the Bible successfully, graciously, and persuasively into the life of a fellowman is a great privilege and a real responsibility. Let us pray that all those who

bring the Word of God to those who have it not may be endowed with guidance from above, skill and friendliness, tact and firm faith, and that the spirit of God may open the heart of the one who knows not the Word to receive it and to hold it precious and to bring forth much fruit. Let us pray that all colporteurs, pastors, missionaries and workers who distribute the Word may know the joy of fruitful distribution and may be sustained in their trials and difficulties by the blessing of God.

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THE end of September brings to a close a four months' broadcasting series over the Blue Network and affiliated stations on the topic "The Changeless Bible" in the series "Your Life Today." Secretaries Betts and North have been the speakers. The Society expresses to the Blue Network and its officers warm appreciation for the facilities provided. There are many aspects of the Bible's influence and power that become strongly visible in the Society's experience and we welcome the opportunity to share these with the great radio audience. We desire also to thank Mr. George Shackley, whose harmonious music has been inspiring; the two skilled announcers, Mr. Gene Kirby and Mr. Stanley Shaw; and especially Mr. Frank C. Goodman and Mr. Wesley Goodman of the Department of National Religious Radio for their very able and wise guidance.

### August Meeting of the Board

THE fourth stated meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and twenty-ninth year was held at the Bible House, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York 22, New York, on Thursday, August 3, 1944, at 3:30 o'clock, President Daniel Burke, LL.D., in the Chair for the first time.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. Dr. Channing H. Tobias.

The minutes of the various standing committees were presented and approved, and their recommendations adopted. The Ways and Means Committee reported encouraging trends in the Society's receipts from churches and individuals. Many denominational gatherings had been visited by the staff.



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329 S. Brevard St., Charlotte 1, N. C.

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Rev. V. C. Hodges, D.D., 5424 Woodland Ave., Cleveland 4, Ohio.  
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Rev. G. A. Hobart Sheppard, D.D., 2549 Elm St., Dallas 1, Texas.

### Depositories—To Which Orders for Scriptures Should Be Sent

*New York City* 22—Bible House, Park Ave. and 57th St., New York, New Jersey, Penna., Del., Maryland, D. C., Virginia, W. Va.  
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*Chicago 1, Illinois*—35 E. Wacker Drive, Ohio, Ky., Ind., Ill., Iowa, Mo., Mich., Wis., Minn., N. Dak., S. Dak., Neb., Kan.  
*Dallas 1, Texas*—1914 Main St., Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Colorado, New Mexico.  
*San Francisco 2, California*—224 McAllister St., Wash., Ore., Calif., Nevada, Mont., Idaho, Wyo., Utah, Ariz., Alaska, Hawaii.

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*Mexico*—Sr. H. T. Marroquin, Apartado 1373, Mexico City.  
*Caribbean*—Rev. Raymond R. Gregory, Bible House, Box J, Cristobal, Canal Zone.  
*Upper Andes*—Mr. John Ritchie, Apartado 448, Girón Camaná 836, Lima, Peru.  
*Chile-Bolivia*—Mr. D. C. Brackenridge, Casilla 784, Santiago, Chile.

*La Plata*—Rev. P. Penzotti, Calle Paraná 471, Buenos Aires, Argentina.  
*Brazil*—Rev. Charles W. Turner, Ph.D., Bible House, Avenida Erasmo Braga No. 12, Rio de Janeiro.  
*Bible Lands Agency, North*—Mr. F. Lyman MacCallum, Box 747, Beirut, Syria.  
*Bible Lands Agency, South*—Mr. H. Athanasian, P. O. Box 724, 62 Sharia Ibrahim Pasha, Cairo, Egypt.

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*Thailand (Siam)*—Rev. Robert O. Franklin (on furlough) 703 Sathorn Rd., Bangkok.  
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*Japan Bible Society*—Mr. T. Tanaka, General Secretary, Bible House, 2 Shichome, Ginza, Tokyo.

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**2. Bibles for prisoners of war and war's innocent victims.** Years of isolation, inactivity and misery must not be allowed to break down the moral fiber of these captured millions. We must strengthen their morale so they may take their place again as free men with the spirit and will to build a better world.

In devastated areas the Bible alone is left to sustain hope and courage. Poverty, disease and a breakdown of faith follow in the wake of war's desolation to menace the world. Let us be quick to give spiritual sustenance, as vital to homeless and distressed peoples as food itself!



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